PRESIDENT : I am afraid the honourable member will have to postpone it until the next session.

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO SAFEGUARD AND ADVANCE THE INTERESTS OF THE COCOANUT INDUSTRY.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI : Sir, I beg to move the following resolution.

This Assembly recommends to the Government that a standing Committee be organised with a view to safeguard and advance the interests of the cocoanut industry in Travancore.

Sir, the co-coanut industry in Travancore is now in a disorganised condition. There is no authoritative body for organising, for doing propoganda work and for educating the people on scientific and improved methods of cultivation and for combating diseases with regard to cocoanuts. Due to the absence of an authoritative body, the industry suffers very much and there is also nobody for carrying on agitation for protection against foreign imports. The merchants are exploiting the producers and growers so much so that the producers do not get the price that they ought to get or rather the best price. Sir, recently there was a profitable market in Madras and one Mr. P. K. Thomas B. A., B. L., B. COM., an ex-member of the Assembly, I think, is marketing cocoanuts in the Madras markets and it seems he is daily selling in auction some 60,000 cocoanuts and this large sale was made possible on account of the reduction in the railway freight. But the merchants here took advantage of the opportunity and began to send all sorts of inferior cocoanus to the Madras market so much so the Travancore product is almost losing the market there. So in order to regulate the supply of cocoanut and to see the good qualities are sent out of the country, there must be a powerful, authoritative body, In Ceylon there is a cocoanut Board which insists upon the merchants taking license. They want the merchants to produce samples before them and if the Board is satisfied that the samples produced are good, a certificate is issued to the merchants to that effect. Only if that is produced will the Ceylon merchants be allowed to export cocoanut from Ceylon. In order to carry on this sort of work there is nobody in Travancore. For this purpose I propose that a Standing Committee or a Board be organised with a view to safeguard and advance the interests of cocoanut industry.

The Committee or the Board may consist of nine members, four representatives from various parts of the country, two to be nominated from the Kera Karshaka Sanghom and three officials. Sir, in the first instance, these members may be nominated to the board for a period of four years. It must be a statutory body. Sir, the Agricultural Board has made a recommendation recently to Government that a Cocoanut Board should be constituted. So also the Conference of the representatives of the Alleppey and the Travancore Chambers of Commerce

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. S. Nilakanta Pillai.]

made a similar recommendation. The represeentatives of the Travancore, Cochin and Malabar Kera Karshaka Sanghoms have adopted a resolution to the effect that separate boards may be constituted in Travancore Cochin and Malabar. Accordingly, I understand, that Cochin and Malabar are taking steps to constitute boards. Sir, the Alleppey and the Travancore Chambers of Commerce have also recommended to Government that a board should be constituted. So also the Kera Karshaka Sanghom has made a recommendation to Government to this effect. Sir, the object should be to take steps, as it may consider necessary both in and outside the State, to advertise Travancore cocoanut products, create, promote and encourage further demands of such products in the markets of the State and outside and finance the expenses that are incidental thereto. The second object should be to prevent the exportation of bad qualities of cocoanut products, to secure the best price and to bring to the notice of Government the needs and requirements of the cocoanut growers generally.

PRESIDENT: But many of those things require legislation.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Sir, for the time being a committee may be appointed.

PRESIDENT: Alright, go on. I don't desire to interrupt the honourable member but I am suggesting that a multiplication of committees may not be advantageous. There are already the Economic Development Board and the Agricultural Board functioning. Why not a sub-committee of any one of these be entrusted with the matter?

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Sir, that depends upon the discretion of Government. What I mean is that a separate committee may be constituted to look to the special interest of the cocoanut industry. Sir, then there is the question of finance for the committee. In Ceylon a special cess is levied. But when the state of affairs existing here is considered, I don't think that it is desirable on the part of Government to impose a special cess on the people who are already overburdened with so may taxes. Sir, I would suggest in this connection that the export duty on cocoanuts must be abolished and only a small cess should be imposed on exports and that may be given over to this body for financing its needs. Sir, it is more or less in the interests of the producers and the coconut growers of the country that such a body is constituted. And if such a committee or board is constituted on the lines recommended by me I think that the interest of the cocoanut industry will be very carefully and scrupulously looked after and it will have unprecedented prosperity. With these words I commend the resolution for the acceptance of the House,

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, I beg to support the principle underlying the resolution. Before I advance my arguments about this principle, let me tell the House how this idea of the formation of a Cocoanut Board came into existence.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Some months ago after the Ceylon Cocoanut Board was established by statute at Colombo this board approached the Travancore Chamber of Commerce and the Alleppey Chamber of Commerce asking them whether these or any other like organisation would wish to have a common platform with them We pointed out to them that we are prepared to work with them provided they gave us, both for Travancore and Cochin, the freedom to carry on the propaganda for increasing the import duty on cocoanut and its products imported into India by Ceylon. On that question the Ceylon Board and the Chambers of Commerce differed and the question was not proceeded with further. After some time, that is, after Mr. Changanacherry Parameswaran Pillai, President of the Travancore Cocoanut Growers' Association, went to Ceylon to discuss with the Ceylon Board, he returned and approached the Chambers of Commerce and we had a meeting about these subjects. In that meeting representatives from Cochin and representatives of the Travancore Chamber of Commerce and the Travancore Cocoanut Growers' Association were included. During the course of the discussion we pointed out that it would be unwise for the representatives of the Travancore cocoanut cultivators to enter into any bargain or negotiation with the Ceylon Board because the latter is a big organisation and is controlled by an independent Government. After much discussion we came to the conclusion that there is no use in having a United Cocoanut Board for advancing the marketing of the cocoanut products. But it would be preferable for Travancore and Cochin to have separte boards. So far as I could remember about that discussion, we plainly said that these proposed boards cannot finance or control the marketing of our cocoanut products but they can only carry on the one purpose that should engage the attention of the proposed board, that is, to move the Travancore Government and through them the Government of India to increase the import duty on cocoanuts and copra imported into India. The committee about which my friend Mr. Nilakanta Pillai moved the resolution could never make provisions for financing or testing of qualities because in that meeting it was pointed out that the operations of the Ceylon Cocoanut Board are placed in a peculiar position in Colombo. Colombo is the only central place from which cocoanut and its products are exported, but here in Travancore it is distributed from one end to another. We have exporting centres at Colachel, Trivandrum, Alleppey and Cochin. So, it would not be possible for us to establish branches at all these ports. We, therefore, decided to have a separate board not created by statute but an organisation of the non-officials and other commercial bodies along with the Travancore Cocoanut Growers' Association for propaganda and also to push the one question, that is, the question of increasing the import duty on cocoanut and its products especially imported from Colombo into India.

If my friend's idea is to create such a board with the intention of pushing further this question of increasing the import duty on Ceylon copra or, for that matter, foreign copra, I support his resolution. Otherwise I oppose it.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by Mr. S. Nilakanta Pillai for the appointment of a committee to advance and safeguard the interests of the cocoanut industry in Travancore. And, in doing so I wish to make a few observations in support of my position.

Sir, in pursuance of the rubber and tea restriction schemes, committees have been formed for regulating the export of tea and rubber and consequently there has been considerable increase in the price of tea and rubber. Sir, the total areas of lands planted with rubber and tea in Travancore are only 96,746 and 77,586 acres respectively. The total area under cocoanut cultivation as found at the end of 1111 was 5,75,340 acres It is stated at page 125 of the Travancore Administration Report for the year 1111 that "Cocoanut is the most important commercial crop in Travancore and its products account for more than a third of the total exports from Travancore." This will explain in unmistakable terms the importance of cocoanut industry in Travancore.

Sir, in a very learned lecture delivered by late Mr. G. K. Devadhar at a public meeting held on the 18th August 1934 under the auspices of the Peoples' Co-operative Bank, he observed that the acute economic depression prevalent in the country is mainly due to the fall in the price of cocoanut products in Travancore. At his instance a resolution was also moved in a meeting of the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to the effect that a Cocoanut Committee should be formed on the lines of the Central Cotton Committee in British India. Sir, the fall in the price of cocoanut products is due to the dumping of Ceylon copra into British India. I know, Sir, that the Travancore Government have addressed the Imperial Government on more occassions than one regarding the necessity of enhancing the import duty on cocoanut products and my information is that such representations were not of any considerable use. Sir, I know also that there is a Cocoanut Board constituted in Ceylon to safeguard the interests of the cocoanut industry there and as a result of the persistent working of that Committee the Board has been able to do so much in the way of advancing the interests of the cocoanut cultivators in Ceylon. Therefore, I am of opinion that it is highly necessary to constitute an independent committee in Travancore to safeguard the interests of cocoanut industry in Travancore.

MR. A THANU PILLAI: Why not entrust the work to the Agricultural Board?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: In British India there are such committees established. Even eminent men like late Mr. G. K. Devadhar were of that opinion.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: Let me at the outset say that Government are in full accord with the principle underlying the resolution moved by Mr. S. Nilakanta Pillai. It is as much the concern of the Government as it is of the representatives of the people, to push up the price of cocoanut products. But Travancnre by itself cannot go far in that

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

direction. To get a high price means the widening of our markets and stimulating demands. What can Travancore do in these respects. So far as the markets are concerned I may say that they are confined to Indian markets alone at present. These markets are not within our control. To get a better price for our cocoanut products in Indian markets the one sure way is to increase the import duty. But Travancore is quite helpless in that direction. The Government of India were addressed time after time on this question. They have to consider very many other allied subjects which are of equal importance before they do anything for us. The Government of India were made aware of the hard lot of our cultivators due to the fall in prices of cocoanut products through proper channels. I may say that they have not been absoultely deaf to our prayers.

In the matter of finding new markets in India I submit that whatever can be done have already been done by Government. We have appointed a Trade Agent at Bombay but now that responsibility has been to a great extent entrusted by Government to the two Chambers of Commerce in Travancore. They can take up this question and the Government, I may inform the House, are prepared to help them in all possible ways for developing markets in India. That is one way to improve the lot of our coccanut growers and even in that Travancore cannot do much. The Indian markets are open to other cocoanut producers of India also. Besides Travancore there are Cochin, British Malabar, Mysore and Bengal which produce cocoanuts. Therefore if anything is to be done by a committee, that committee must be one for the whole of India like the Central Cotton Committee. Government have already brought to the notice of the Government of India the desirability of constituting each a committee. The matter is, I believe, receiving attention at the hands of the Government of India. All that Travancore can do for developing markets for cocoanut products, is to try and secure freight concessions as is said to have been done by Mr. P. K. Thomas and Mr. Changanachery Paramesvaran Pillai for the chief transport of our cocoanut products to the other parts of India. More than that, I am sorry to say, either the people or the Government of Travancore cannot achieve for the Travancore producer. I do not understand the wisdom of multiplying the number of such committees. Already we have the Agricultural Board and the Economic Development Board which has been recently reconstituted. Now the Economic Development Board has been empowered to go into sub-committees, each sub-committee being intrusted with a particular question. A sub-committee of the Economic Development Board can go into this question. Similarly, the Agricultural Board can take up the work of improving the lot of the cocoanut grower. I do not know what we are going to do by appointing yet another committee.

Mr. Nilacanta Pillai suggested the levy of a cess for financing the committe, that he proposes; and he also suggested the abolition of the export duty on cocoanut products.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: Is a committee required for the abolition of the export duty?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: That is not the question, Sir. What Mr. Nilakanta Pillai said was that, for financing the committee proposed by him, a small cess might be imposed and that, in order that such cess should not be an additional burden on the cocoanut producer, the export duty on cocoanut products might be abolished.

Sir, under export duty, even at the present low rate, Government are getting annually Rs. 8 to 9 lakhs, from the products of the cocoanut trees and that is not a negligible sum for the State. Government cannot easily give up that amount. And, if a cess is to be imposed it can be done only by means of a legislation. It is quite open to the honourable member to introduce a Bill for the purpose and to get it passed by the Legislature.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Is it a fact that, in answer to the representation made by the Travancore Government to the Government of India, the Government of India asked the Travancore Government to consider the question of the abolition of export duty on cocoanut products?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN: It is not exactly that, Sir. The question of export duty had also been referred to by the Government of India in one of their replies; there was absolutely no suggestion from them about the abolition of the duty. Anyhow, that does not appear to be very relevant to the present discussion.

As I have already said, Sir, if the member is really serious about the levy of a cess for the purpose of financing the proposed committee, it is quite open to him to ask the leave of the House for the introduction of a Bill so that the House may fully consider the question. I am sorry, Sir, that I am not in a position to accept the resolution for the constitution of a committee of nine members, officials and non-officials, to go into this question, since already there are two other committees which can very well take up the question. I therefore oppose the resolution.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: I entirely agree with what the learned Excise Commissioner has said. Already, we have too many committees to deal with such matters. If really anything has to be done, there is the Agricultural Board. There is also the Economic Development Board which has been recently remodelled, enlarged and amplified. Provision has been made for the formation of sub-committees of that Board. That Board can therefore very well take up the question of the improvement of the lot of the cocoanut producer also. I do not think there is any necessity for the committee now proposed. I therefore oppose the resolution.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Sir, cocoanut is the chief money crop of the country. It is therefore quite essential that it is looked after by the State. The suggestion that the committees now in existence can take up this question also is not satisfactory.

PRESIDENT: Is there a more important work, that the Agricultural Board can think of?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Sir, during the short period of its existence, the Agricultural Board has not turned out much of useful work. Therefore, there will be no use in entrusting them with this work also. The suggestion tantamounts to the utter disregard of the cocoanut industry of the country. The matter is important enough for a separate committee, there is ample work for a special committee.

The Excise Commissioner said that legislation is necessary for the levy of a cess. If so, I do not want any cess to be imposed at all. Government can very well finance the committee.

With these words, I press the resolution to a division.

The resolution was put to vote and carried.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I demand a poll.

PRESIDENT: Does the member really press his demand for a poll?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: No, Sir.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Maveiikara* cum *Kunnattur*): I rise to a point of order, Sir. When once a poll is demanded, can the member withdraw such demand?

PRESIDENT: That right he has; second thoughts are allowed even in that matter.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: I demand a poll.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid that the member is too late.

Grant of annual allowance to the Members of the Legislature.

MR. K. T. THOMAS: Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

This Assembly recommends to Government that the members of the Travancore Legislature be given an annual allowance of Rs. 1,200 each.

It gives me real pleasure—indeed it may be explained as being due to the prospect of personal gain in it—to move the resolution balloted against my name. I do not believe that in commending the resolution I should build up a case for its acceptance or that it is necessary to be long-winded on it. The idea of payment of salaries to members of the Legislature is not new. It is a common feature of parliamentary institutions in most countries. Countries in the west accepted this principle long ago. Great Britain, a little while ago, revised the salaries given to members of Parliament and has raised it from £ 400 to £ 600. A member of the Federal Legislature is paid £ 800 in Canada £ 850 in Australia and £ 1,500 in the United States of America. France pays £ 500 to every member of the Chamber of Deputies, Netherlands £ 420, South Africa £ 400 and New Zealand £ 450. Members of the Provincial Legislatures too are paid amounts varying from £ 100 to £ 875 a year.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. T. Thomas.]

As soon as the Congress accepted office in British India, they seem to have tackled the question of salaries to members of the Legislature. In most Provinces they have tentatively fixed the amount at Rs. 100. Orissa alone, as far as I recollect, has put it below a 100 per mensem.

In the West there are, however, various additions to and deductions from the salaries. In most countries free travel is provided between the constituencies and Parliament. We shall hope that when the Commercial Transport Scheme gets well under weigh and is extended from Cape Comorin to Parur, this amenity will be provided here too. In the United States provision is made for a Secretary for every member. It might be interesting to be told that French M. P's are the most lucky in this matter. Champagne, the finest brandy and liquors—in fact anything they want in the Chamber bar-is provided for a very nominal subscription. So also travelling first class at any time to any place in France is provided for a nominal payment for Railway pass. They are given a family pension, free stationery and stamps. The resolution that is tabled does not make provision for any of these.

The recent lowering of the franchise has thrown open a legislative career to men who possess neither wealth nor private means. Our Legislature is no longer a close corporation of rich men or of those who can command unlimited credit. Members there are in this House whose success in the general elections is due entirely to the popular confidence enjoyed by them; who, but for the changed circumstances that attended the last elections would never have contemplated such a public career. A good many are here because of the credit they command and a few because they could really afford.

In this country legislating is assumed to be only a side-line. During the session we legislate; outside the Hall we turn to the more serious matter of earning our living. Every one of the members in this House has something else to do for a living and between sessions hardly any time is spent on the work appertaining to the position we occupy in the House.

Those who desire to recoup their losses in contesting elections naturally are prone to discover ways and means to do so. I do not propose to dilate on this aspect as I feel I had better leave it unsaid. During their tenure of office as legislators, they should be kept above the necessity to rack their brains or draw on their ingenuity to lead to such discoveries. As in British India till now, our members have been paid Rs. 5 per day as if they are day-labourers in partial employment. For a faithful and efficient discharge of their functions as members of the Legislature they have to tour their respective constituencies and keep in touch with their electorates. They have got to inquire into the grievances of their electorates and exert themselves in the endeavour to have them redressed. They will have to answer to a large number of queries from different individuals, associations and organisations in their respective constituencies. They should be placed above the need for favours from officers either for themselves or for those who choose

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

to plague them for introductions and recommendations. It should be possible for them to be bold and independent in the discharge of their duties as Legislators. Their best will be available only if they are placed in a situation which renders unnecessary for them to look for favours from any quarter. It is only reasonable that those in the Legislature should be paid for the services rendered to the country.

Before I close, I should also advert to the financial commitment involved in the scheme embodied in the resolution. In the demand for General Administration—Legislative Bodies provision is made for Rs. 42,000 towards travelliag allowances and another Rs. 6,500 for other expenses, making a total of Rs. 48,500 besides the Rs. 3,000 budgeted for the Deputy President. If the resolution be accepted it would mean that an additional allotment of about sixty thousand rupees will have to be made.

It behoves me to make my position clear. While in British India the monthly remuneration is in addition to the travelling and daily allowances, the motion before the House is to make provision for a salary in lieu of these allowances. Under the existing rules "the non-official members of the Sri Mulam Assembly, the Sri Chitra State Council or any Committee constituted by or under the authority of Government, may for their journeys to and fro to attend the meetings of the said Assembly, Council or Committee, as the case may be, draw travelling allowance as follows :—

Railway Fare 1½ 1st class.
Mileage for all miles at Chs. 11 and,

Daily allowance at Rs. 5 for the halts at the place of the meeting of the said Assembly, Council or the Committee as also the special rates admissible to first class officers for journeys in hilly tracts". The Committees constituted by the Legislature invariably meet at Trivandrum. Therefore membership on a Committee enables a member to claim the allowances mentioned at the rates specified. The difficulty in getting together the entire Committee every time it sits and the difficulties to which members from distant centres will be put if the Committees sit day to day lead to considerable delay in getting through the business entrusted to it. But for these inconveniences and hardships, I trust that the Select Committees will invariably be able to do their task in the appointed time or perhaps earlier. Prompt and efficient discharge of duties will, I trust, be a necessary consequence of the acceptance of the resolution.

Now, members are paid travelling allowances and in proportion to the distance that a member has to travel, his services are rendered costly. It results in a distinction, which, according to me, is invidious, between members. From what I have said of the practice obtaining in the Western countries and from what the Congress is expecting to do in the different provinces in British India you will agree with me that in accepting the resolution we shall only be in keeping with the times and falling in line with our colleagues in other parts of the world. Our Legislature is more ancient than the Provincial Legislatures in British

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. T. Thomas.]

India and the Legislature in the Sister State of Cochin. By adopting the resolution we shall be maintaining the honourable position we have in leading these other Legislatures. Even here we are not prepared to yield our claim for setting the example and showing the way. Before we should have met again, the principle would be accepted in British India and we shall be left behind. We shall only be anticipating our brethren in British India and Cochin if we now accept the resolution.

I may, before I resume my seat, point out the circumstance that the idea underlying the resolution has been the subject of comment in a number of the leading journals in and outside the State. I have not come across a single journal that has entered a protest, however small. They have all been supporting the principle embodied in the resolution which I now commend for the critical consideration and unanimous acceptance of this House.

Sir, with your permission I may be permitted to make a slight change in the resolution that is printed.

PRESIDENT: You may make your own amendment.

MR. K. T. THOMAS: The resolution is—

"That this Assembly recommends to Government that the non-official members of the Travancore Legislature be given an annual allowance of Rs.1,200 each"

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: I second it.

MR. E. JOHN PHILIPOSE (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, under Standing Order 52 I seek your permission to move the following amendments to this Resolution:

Insert the word "Non-official" between the words "the" and "members", delete the words "an annual" and substitute the words "a monthly", delete "1200" and substitute "100".

As amended the Resolution will read thus—

"This Assembly recommends to Government that the non-official members of the Travancore Legislature be given a monthly allowance of Rs. 100 each."

Sir, in moving this resolution with these amendments and in supporting the principle underlying it I do not desire in the least to spoil a good cause by bad advocacy and therefore I shall contend myself by presenting these amendments for the acceptance of this House in the full hope that the Government members will not have a grudge against me if I have disappointed them in anticipating an additional income to their already heavy salaries.

MR. P. K. KUNJU: I second it.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു. അതോടുകൂടി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളത് ഇതാണ്. രാഷ്ട്രീയ പ്രമേയം വന്നാൽ ഈ സഭയിലുള്ള എല്ലാ അംഗങ്ങളും ഐകകണ്ഠ്യേന പാസാക്കും. അതുപോലെയുള്ള ഒരു പ്രമേയമാണ് ഇതും. ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് അണുതോരും ഏതെങ്കിലും തരത്തിൽ ഒരു ശമ്പളമോ അ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

വൻസോദ്യവണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതായാൽ അതിനെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും ആരും എതിർക്കുകയില്ല. എന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും ആണ്ടുതോറും പലയിനങ്ങളിലായി പല ഡിമാൻഡുകളും കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും കൊണ്ടുവരുന്ന ഡിമാൻഡ് ഇതൊന്നുമാത്രമാണ്. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നത് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ പ്രജകളുടെ രക്ഷക്കും നിട്ടിന്റെ നന്മക്കും വേണ്ടിയാണ്. അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും കൊണ്ടുവന്ന ഈ അപേക്ഷ കേവലം വ്യക്തിപരമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നു വിചാരിക്കേണ്ട. ഓരോ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലങ്ങളിലുമുള്ള ആളുകളുടെ ഇങ്ങളെല്ലാം ഒരു വ്യക്തിയിൽ ആവാഹിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തയക്കുന്നസ്ഥിതിക്ക് അവരുടെ ശരിയായ കാര്യനടത്തിപ്പിലേക്കു ഈ ഡിമാൻഡ് കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതാകുന്നു. അതിനാൽ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും എതിർക്കുകയില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. അതിനാൽ ഭേദഗതിചെയ്ത ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA Dr. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Sir, I may assure the honourable member Mr. John Philipose that the official members have not any ground for complaint against his amendment for excluding them from the benefit which this resolution is going to confer on the honourable members of this House. The honourable member will see from what I say that the Government propose to take a neutral attitude in this matter. It does not mean that the Government are going to commit themselves to the acceptance of this resolution. They will remain neutral and leave it to the House to decide the question, and after a decision has been arrived at here, the Government will examine the question and come to their own conclusion later. But before I leave it to the House to decide the question, Sir, let me state a few facts for the consideration of the honourable members. Mr. Thomas has referred to the financial aspect of the question. I find that the Government spent on account of travelling allowance to the members Rs. 33,489 in 1111 and during the current year the amount spent so far is Rs. 25,348. Mr. Thomas has said that the allowance that he has proposed is in lieu of the travelling allowance now given by Government to the members. The total amount required for the payment of this allowance to the non-official members of the Sri Mulam Assembly alone is about Rs. 60,000 according to Mr. Thomas himself. But we must take it that once this is granted to the members of this House, naturally the demand will come from the members of the other House also.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know the total amount that will be required if the resolution is accepted?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Mr. Thomas has stated that the amount required is Rs. 60,000.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: The Travancore Legislature which consists of 62 and 27 or 89 non-official members will require 89 multiplied by Rs. 1,200 and this will come to over a lakh of rupees.

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: Sir, I only said that according to Mr. Thomas the total amount required for the payment of allowances to the non-official members will come to about Rs. 60,000. When once this concession is granted to the members of this House, the members of the other House will also demand it; and then the amount required will be over a lakh of rupees. I was going to say that. Probably there is something wrong with the hall which prevents my friend Mr. Thanu Pillai from hearing me. The total amount required for the payment of this allowance to the non-official members of both the Houses is over a lakh of rupees. In the budget there is only a provision of about Rs. 42,000 and if this proposal is accepted by Government, an additional provision of about Rs. 60,000 will have to be made and probably the Government will have to come to the Legislature with a supplementary demand for that amount.

There is only one more aspect of the question which I want to place before this House and that is that in all countries it is accepted that the honourable members who represent the people must not be made to spend from their own pockets for the work that they do as members of the Legislature. Their travelling and halting expenses must be met by Government. That is the maxim accepted by all countries. But there are some countries where in addition to the travelling allowance a monthly allowance is also paid to members of Legislature. That may be because in other countries the sessions are longer and more numerous than here. In Travancore, Sir, we generally have three sessions in a year and the number of days on which the Legislature meets is only an average of about 35 to 40 days in the year. The question is whether we should follow the example of Canada and France and provide for a larger allowance. I am glad that Mr. Thomas' demand is rather limited. He does not want all the luxuries that are provided to the members in France. His request is only for an allowance of Rs. 1,200 in lieu of the travelling allowances that are now paid. In this connection I remember that when the motion for increasing the allowance from £400 to £600 to the members of Parliament was under consideration some observations were made by a leading newspaper in London. Sir, it will be well to bear that in mind in this connection. It was said that a salary which would attract people into public life for the sake of the salary would indeed be a disaster because it would tend to create a class of professional politicians who in other lands have not proved a happy element in the Parliamentary system. Government are neutral in this matter and they leave it to the House to decide the question. After a decision is reached by the House, Government will then consider the question and make their own decision.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. E. JOHN PHILIPOSE: Is the honourable member personally in complete agreement with the sentiments expressed by the newspaper referred to by him?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I only said it was an observation made by a newspaper. I have nothing more to add.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: Sir, does the Government remaining neutral here mean that it will ultimately accept the decision of the non-official members?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I do not say so, Sir.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member has no right to commit Government in that way.

MR K. T. THOMAS: Sir, I accept the amendments of my friend Mr. John Philipose. As for the suggestion that the grant of salaries to the members of this House would necessarily involve the same grant to the members of the Sri Chitra State Council it was reckoned with by me when I gave the accounts. It might be seen that I have drawn on the figures in the budget as estimated for 1113 and taken the figures 42,000 and 6,500, the two items given therein. I put it as 48,500 and I said that the acceptance of the resolution tabled by me would lead to an additional allotment of Rs. 60,000. Evidently therefore it might be seen that I did contemplate the same convenience or the same remuneration being paid to the members of the Sri Chitra State Council as well. Otherwise an additional allotment of Rs. 60,000 would have been unnecessary according to me. Therefore let me make myself clear that the financial commitment to which reference was made by me was in contemplation of the circumstance that the members of the Legislature include not only the members of this Assembly but also the members of the State Council.

The resolution, as amended, was put to the vote of the House and carried.

APPOINTMENT OF GRANT-IN-AID SCHOOL TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

That this Assembly recommends to the Government that when appointments are made to teachers posts in departmental schools fifty per cent of such appointments be given to the applicants who have efficiently served in grant-in-aid schools.

Sir, the education which is one of the important functions of the State is carried on by two agencies, the Departmental Agency and also the private agency. Sir, the teachers employed in the private schools and also the teachers employed in departmental schools possess the same qualifications and they discharge the same functions. Yet there is a large difference in the remuneration granted to them. Sir, from an equitable point of view that is not fair. The teachers who discharge the same functions should be given the same pay. The Government must see that both the sets of teachers should be given the same pay.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly